

From: [Cindy Chauvin](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Please reconsider language of new mandates!
Date: Sunday, August 07, 2011 5:46:56 PM

Thy Kingdom Come!

To Whom It May Concern:

On August 1st, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued new mandates concerning preventive health services to be covered by insurance plans. These mandates - in response to the Institute of Medicine's advisory report issued to HHS - require that all insurance plans provide coverage for all prescription contraceptives approved by the FDA, as well as abortifacients such as the "morning after" pill and "Ella" (a drug similar to RU-486 which can induce an abortion some weeks into pregnancy).

There are a few exceptions and these include those group health plans which were in effect before the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform) was enacted, along with those offered by employers who are deemed by HHS to qualify as a "religious employer." However, the definition of "religious employer" is so narrow that its applicability negates most religious employers within the United States.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has voiced its strict opposition to and disappointment with this final Act of HHS, due to its failure to ensure respect for rights of conscience when developing such mandates. The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) has also strongly opposed this mandate.

I would like to express my opposition to the definition of "religious employer" within the context of a lack of true conscience protection. It is critical that all voices of conscience be heard and protected in such important and widespread policy decisions.

Please inform of your review of this matter.

Sincerely,
in Christ,

Cindy Chauvin
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